Serving The People Of The Hunters Point-Bayview

THE SPOKESMAN

VOL. 1, NO. 12, Saturday, Feb. 19, 1966

Adults Out of Hand at Youth Conference

Governor's Conference on Youth February 10th to 12th, Long Beach California. Participants: Mr. Henry Kellum, Mr. Leneal Henderson, Mr. Allen Harrison, Mr. Milton Otis, & Mr. Melvin Threadgill.

In general the conference was rather mediocre. Although this conference was billed as one of the youth participating in community affairs, there was a lack of planning and participation by the youth of our state. Even at the small group level where these young adults were to carry on certain levels of discussion, arguments and the like, they were cut short by adults. As Mr. Melvin Threadgill aptly put it: "The adults told us we were the "People of tomorrow and therefore had to set our own standards," but then they turned around and told us what was 'right and wrong' at every turn." And in general Mr. Threadgill felt like many of the youth participating, that there was "too much formality and no action."

But one bright aspect of this conference was the very active participation of the city youth, especially those who represented this area. We in this community should be extremely fortunate that we have such a great number of gifted young men. On their own they set up a number of future meetings and projected activities with youth of other areas. Of the only youth in visible control, too many were blue-eyed, blond darlings acting as youth leaders. In the future it might be hoped that such a conference can be completely planned, controlled and run by a democratic representation of youth only. In such a case the so-called adult advisors would only act and speak in that capacity when called upon by the young men and women. And, in the future it might be wiser to pick some speakers, politicians for instance, who speak with and not down, and refrain from verbally slapping young hands and faces merely for their own selfish cause of political expediency.

The greatest variance in the entire conference was the difference in maturity between those youth in the inter-city and those from the suburbs (especially Southern Calif.) Inter-city youth (as with our own representatives) were by far more sophisticated and were more able to honestly and realistically face the issues which count, or as we would say, the "nitty-gritty." Whereas those youth from the white suburbs tended to merely bow to adult interference.

A Letter to the Mayor

Honorable Mayor J.F. Shelley
City Hall
San Francisco, California

Dear Mayor Shelley:

At the Hunters Point-Bayview Area Planning Board Meeting of January 25, 1966, it was resolved that the Board would express to the Mayor of the City and the Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency its concern for having on the Redevelopment Commission a representative from the Hunters Point-Bayview area. The need for having someone of such a body who represents the interest of this community cannot be over emphasized, especially in light of the physical planning processes that have been established for the community.

If there is need for the Area Planning Board to designate by name the person to serve on the Commission it is prepared to do so. We trust that both you and Mr. Herman will take into meaningful consideration the request that is being made by our Board and therefore will acknowledge by responding as soon as possible.

Very Truly Yours,
JOHN DUKES, CHAIRMAN
Hunters Point-Bayview Area Office Board

GEORGE NAPPER, AREA DIRECTOR
Hunters Point-Bayview Area Office

Respond of the Mayor

Mr. John Dukes, Chairman
Hunters Point-Bayview Area Planning Board

Mr. George Napper, Area Director
Hunters Point-Bayview Area Office
1449 Mendell Street
San Francisco, California 94124

Dear Mr. Dukes and Mr. Napper:

Thank you for your letter of February 4, 1965, advising me of the resolution adopted by the Hunters Point-Bayview Area Planning Board as its meeting of January 25, recommending that a representative from the Hunters Point-Bayview area be appointed to the Redevelopment Agency.

I greatly appreciate your interest in advising me of the Board's expression on this subject.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours,
JOHN F. SHELLEY
Mayor

Aid to Small Business Man

A Technical Assistance Grant to set up a job and business development center to service four areas of San Francisco's pockets of poverty, high unemployment and blight has been approved by the new Economic Development Administration.

Eugene P. Foley, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director of the Economic Development Administration today announced approval of the grant to PACT (Plan of Action for Challenging Times), a non-profit corporation dedicated to raising the economic level of the city's minority community.

The areas to be aided are Hunters Point, Mission, Western Addition, and Chinatown, where unemployment rates range from 10 to 15%.

In applying for the grant, PACT reported that only 2% of San Francisco's minority working population are engaged in such positions as proprietors, managers, or officials, compared to 13.2% for white citizens.

The planned center will have a broad-based board of directors composed of business and professional leaders, bankers, educators, clergy and members of groups to be assisted.

In its broad program of financial and management assistance to low-income business operators and those who will provide jobs for unemployed persons, the job and business development center will:

1. Help existing small and minority businesses to improve services, expand markets and hire more workers.
2. Develop new opportunities for business endeavors.
3. Encourage persons with potential to enter business and provide them with basic training.
4. Counsel and assist both new and existing businesses in proper use of private and public sources of financing.

According to Nephi W. Clayton, ECA Coordinator for California and Nevada, the Economic Development Administration grant will be used for setting up the center and operation for the first five months, including salaries of its professional staff.

URBAN LEAGUE ANNIVERSARY

The Bay Area Urban League will observe its twentieth Anniversary Thursday, February 17, by hosting the National Urban League's "Conference on Employment of Minorities in the West" at the Sheraton Palace in San Francisco.

Bay Area Urban League's Executive Director, Percy H. Steele, Jr. said the Conference will start on Thursday, February 17, and end Friday, February 18. He added that the local league's Twentieth Anniversary would be feted at a Sheraton Palace Banquet the first night of the Conference, with Whitney M. Young, Jr., Executive Director of the National Urban League as guest speaker.

Leaders from management, labor, education, health and welfare, civic organizations, civil rights and ethnic minority groups, as well as public officials from six western states, will attend both the Banquet and the Conference.

The National Urban League's Conference will be a prelude to the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce's "Job Fair," Saturday, February 19, and Sunday, February 20.

Butchertown

The Many Ideas of Mrs. Rosie Williams

For this issue we have selected Mrs. Rosie Lee Williams as our feature community worker. Mrs. Williams was married in 1942, and has six lovely children. She resides in Hunters View at 19 Wills Street.

Mrs. Williams says she thinks the Bayview Hunters Point community has come a long way since she first arrived in 1951. She says that residents have become more active in trying to resolve their problems. She has noticed a great desire on the part of the community to help themselves.

When asked what she thought was the most outstanding problem in the community today? She stated, I think it's too many little organizations all striving to be independent. These organizations should coordinate themselves into one large group and work together striving for one goal until that is accomplished.

Small organizations striving to be independent create division and dissention throughout the community, and ultimately results in a power struggle for representation of the community. She states, "There is an old saying that goes, a snake with seven heads can't get through a fence, but one with seven tails can." By that saying she means that all groups can't be leaders, some must be followers if we are to make any progress.

The Bayview Community Center a long established community organization has played a wonderful role in leading the Community and working with the youth. They have established a tutorial program for youth to help children raise their grades. This program has been a success in helping the children. She feels that all the organizations in this community should work with the Community Center, because it has been working here for a long time, and has recently expanded into larger building facilities with much useful space that could be utilized by the various little organizations.

These little organizations should support the Community Center; they should join together and make the Center what they want it to be. Each resident should take out a membership in the Center also.

Mrs. Williams who is employed with COC as an Intake and Referral Aide feels that the schools in the community are not up to par. She has stated that they are too segragated, and the teaching methods are poor. Teachers tend to pass the children on by age, and not by what they have learned; consequently, we have many illiterate children.

The classrooms are overcrowded, and the counseling service is poor. Counselors hardly ever advise programs in college preparatory classes, and many of our children find themselves not prepared for college after prep school.

Mrs. Williams is married to Percy Williams, and has six children. Her oldest son is Herman Lee, a graduate of Magnolia High, of Mississippi. Ola May Williams, an Administrative Secretary, and graduate of Southern College Institute. Johnny, a graduate of Shelby High, Julia Mariel, an Administrator of Urban Renewal in Chicago and student of Harvard University. Delores, a student at San Francisco Junior Academy and pianist for Saint Phillips Baptist Church Senior Choir, and Shelia, a student at Saint Francis Drake Elementary School.

Mrs. Williams belongs to the following organizations: (1) Saint John's Bapist Church, (2) Grand Worthy Matron of California Jurisdiction Order of Eastern Stars, (3) Grand High Priost of Nights and Daughters, (4) President of Christian Welfare Society, (5) Saint Francis Drake PTA, (6) President of Inner Block Council, (7) President of Neighborhood Parents Group, (8) Campfire Leader, (9) Bayview Community Center, and (10) Chairman of Inter Block Council.



Sam invites everybody to his nightly Taste & Talent Party. All who have talent are invited to come to San Francisco's Friendliest Bar and express it on the stage nightly.

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Editorial

The Essence of Change and Leadership

To permeate, or in some way to shake the larger status quo has become the objective of many citizens and organizations throughout the district. In light of this aim, our community, at last, is taking the efforts of its battle to the very doorstep of its adversary. City Hall, the Police, Schools and the S.F. Poverty Program, have all been assailed by the community, not by long range and secondary measures, but by convening in the Chambers of the institutions themselves.

However, in their sincere attempts to overwhelm the pervasive status quo some citizens and professionals would strive at great lengths to maintain the existing community status quo. They having established some basis of recognition and priority upon, and within, the existing "order of things" stand threatened by structural change within the community. These persons are easily recognized because of the two hats they wear; one a ten gallon "revolutionary" style stetson, the other a "conservative" stingy brim. The former is worn in confrontations with the downtown larger status quo, the latter with the committee.

This type of dual interest in political affairs renders the community that much more ineffective in its attempts toward betterment as the pervasive order will only start to show alteration when the local orders itself exhibits change. The community status quo is part and parcel of the larger status quo. To restrict change in the community structure is to directly promote the extension and perpetuation of the encompassing structure. This being the case, change in the established order can somewhat be judged through recognizing the systematic changes occurring in each community throughout the city, as such, structural change within the area should be recognized as a positive sign rather than something to resist or fear.

As change occurs, many things are lost in the process. If those things are lost in favor of progress than they have either served their immediate function or have deceased for lack of function. By the same token, individuals contributing greatly to the aim of bettering the community will someday find that they must take a less than leadership role in the interest of progress. At most, leadership is a fleeting status depending greatly upon the times for its rooting. Yesterday's leader is just as important in the rank and file as today's leader will be tomorrow. It is the numbers and not the leader that will ultimately upset the established order. As one great figure once explained, "There go my people, I must hurry and catch them for I am their leader."

A RESIDENT SPEAKS OUT

Negroes say something must be done. The Negro revolt could explode unless something is done for the victims of ghettos with poor housing. Unemployment and miserable incomes are major problems. Figures show that median income of the Negro family is about a half of the white.

Labor unions are responsible for much of the Negro unemployment. Among those unions are: AFL-CIO, Plumbers, Building Trades Council. This causes a lack of jobs, and low-paid Negroes lean toward crime and rioting.

Why do they always say: The Negroes must be just as good, if not better, than the white applicant? He should not expect any special consideration. This is an unrealistic expectation for the majority of Negro citizens. It's unfair. For 300 years, the Negro has been conscienciously and deliberately excluded. He has been denied even the barest minimums in health, education, housing and cultural outlets. For him to catch up will require a few years of deliberate inclusion and special programming.

Negroes are being drafted like whites, Negroes are being killed like whites, Negroes are fighting under that curious name of democracy, yet some fortunate Negroes will return after shedding tears, blood, sweat, and after seeing their Negro brothers die in Viet Nam only to be discriminated against which is undemocratic. The time has come for white communities to rise from their apathetic slumber to give credit to the men who fought freedom abroad without gaining freedom at home.

Within the integrated framework to affect the scars which were inevitable under the kind of environment to which he was subject to lay America. (I quote Whitney Young). . ."There is no way for the back wheels of a car to catch up with the front wheels even though they are going at the same rate of speed unless something special happens."

We entered the war to make the world safe for democracy. The submissive Negro is passing out. Negroes feel America is also theirs and we are going to share it together now.

Future of the "Hill"

In recent years Hunters Point has become a vicinity of great interest. The movements and participation of some of the people are widely known. This is encouraging, and stimulates community workers to try and do a better job. Until the changes started taking place, the "Hill" as it is widely known was a very undesirable place to live. It was looked upon as too dangerous to walk at night; where gangs gathered; where people disregarded the rights of others; where all kinds of vice was practiced, and all in all it was the very worst. At one point, it became a very great interest to the news media. Everything made headlines from Hunters Point until some of the citizens threatened to boycott the papers.

The perception of people concerning Hunters Point has changed to the extent where plans are being made to redevelop it into High Rise Apartments and homes by people outside the community. The people in this community want to work toward the very same objective, but to the extent where everyone in the community will be able to remain here and not be moved into another area to form another ghetto.

The scenery from this "Hill" is as magnificent as any place in the City. Residents can appreciate this as a warm, sunshiny spot.

Even though the "Hill" may not have much to offer in terms of housing, recreational and other facilities, our ego is causing us to work to the reality of making it the garden spot of San Francisco.

Through the concentrated efforts of various leaders, this can be done. These barrack-type project buildings can become beautiful homes; these rocky, barren hillsides can be covered with green carpets of grass, and rambling roses; these winding streets can lead to pride and job. As we look out of our windows into the sun setting in the Pacific, we can feel the surge of energy pushing us toward these ultimate goals.

THE SPOKESMAN
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF THE HUNTERS POINT/BAYVIEW
ROBERT SIMMS
EDITOR
TEL. 826-8890
1449 MENDELL STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

HISTORY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD CO OP

Letter to the Editor:

Rights Commisson Works Against Discrimination

Dear Editor:

Mr. Willie Thompson is mistaken in assuming that the Human Rights Commission has taken positions contrary to the interests of Negroes, or to any of the racial or ethnic minority for that matter, regarding the proposed Yerba Buena Redevelopment Project and the employment policies of the Buy Area Rapid Transit District.

Regarding the Yerba Buena Project, Pastor Ross Hidy of the Commission's Urban Renewal Committee did state to the Supervisor's Committee that the Redevelopment Agency had apparently fulfilled Federal requirements regarding consultation. The plans did receive Federal approval. While not playing a part in the actual planning of the Yerba Buena Project, the Commission arranged for a meeting between residents of the Project area and representatives of the Agency to discuss the plans on January 29 at Bessie Carmichael School, 55 Sherman Street. This opportunity to question Agency representatives arose from pleas made before the Commission at its last meeting by residents and social workers of the area of whom Mr. Thompson was one of the latter.

I have never written a letter saying that BARTD had satisfied California's Fair Employment Practices laws. As a matter of fact, early last year the Commission approached BARTD to develop an affirmative recruitment and training program and pointed out to the District's officials that their own office staff employement was unrepresentative.

I did issue a press release in September stating in part, "Adoption by the BARTD Directors of this non-discrimination clause for all construction contracts is an important step in an overall program of non-discrimination and affirmative action to assure equal opportunity in the construction jobs available through BARTD's project." I stated that such a clause, no matter how good the intent, must be lived up to in spirit by not only BARTD but the contractors and unions who will build the transit system. The Commission believes that if BARTD, its contractors and the Building Trades unions will work with official and community groups cooperatively, a program of recruitment and training can be developed which will help materially to reduce unemployment problems of racial and ethnic minority persons in the Bay Area. We are working toward that end and encourage others to do so also.

Sincerely,
Frank Quinn
Director

Who's Peddling Poison to Our Children

Glue-Sniffing is Poisonous! and more damaging than "pot."
o 8 to 10 yr. old kids are getting it — and blowing their BRAINS & throats & "GIZZARDS" — for Keeps!

o It is Against the Law to Sell or give Tester's glue to minors.
—What Are We Going To Do About It? You Can Stop It!
Let's Get Together Monday - Feb. 21st 7:30 P.M. at Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St.
o Films
o Information
o And ACTION!
— Refreshments for Parents & Kids.

Equal Housing for Students

The Presidents of the four major universities in San Francisco signed a joint statement proclaiming a policy of equal housing opportunity for their students at the January 27th meeting of the Human Rights Commission.

Dr. Louis Conlan, President of S.F. City College, Dr. Stanley Paulson, Acting President of S.F. State College, Dr. J. Englebert Dunphy, Acting Chancellor at the University of California Medical Center, and Dr. Charles W. Dullea of the University of San Francisco put their names to a policy which requires " . . . that any persons using our housing services offer their homes to qualified persons of all races, colors, religions, or national origin."

The statement is a reaffirmation of college policy, but Frank Quinn, the Commission's Director, pointed out, "Some homeowners have discriminated when minority students were sent to their homes, and the students have been uncertain of their rights, especially since the passage of Proposition 14. This public proclamation is to assure these students that the university will not tolerate discrimination against them by persons using their housing service."

Stressing the particular responsibility of colleges to speak out on this issue, the statement continues: "The sciences taught on all our campuses affirm the essential unity of all mankind. We wish these teachings confirmed in the living experiences of all our students. All families listing with our Housing Services are expected to accept the responsibility for sharing in our city's democratic traditions by opening their doors to students of all races and national origin."

Rabbi Alvin Fine of the Employment Committee reported that the Equal Opportunity Job Fair scheduled for February 19-20 in the Civic Auditorium is receiving an enthusiastic response in the community. 350,000 leaflets will saturate the city inviting citizens to come down and discuss job possibilities or possible upgrading with representatives of our 65 employers who will have booths at the Fair. "We do not promise jobs to those who come," said Rabbi Fine, "But this is an opportunity for jobseekers to find out directly from the big employers in the area just what the opportunities for employment and training are."

The Commission directed its Employment Committee Subcommittee on the Public Sector to request a meeting with Mayor John F. Shelley and City Attorney Thomas M. O'Connor to discuss changes which they suggested in a Commission proposed non-discrimination clause for city contracts.

The Neighborhood Cooperative was conceived and born in the Bayview Hunters Point community. This community is a predominately low-income Negro community at the Southeastern end of San Francisco. The community has a large business section located on Third Street, the main street of the area.

After recognizing and experiencing unfair employment practices, humiliation, and being used to enhance the profit of the selfish merchants, a group of spirited Negro citizens in the low-income area sought to do for themselves what others could not or would not do for them.

In 1960 a citizens committee was organized to approach the neighborhood merchants and request employment opportunities for Negroes, quality merchandise and better public relations. This committee selected merchants where the Negro patronage was prominent, and unjust conditions most pronounced. They were tired of being treated like second-class citizens and having their money taken by sales gimmicks, and tricks.

After consulting selected merchants, and getting no cooperation, the committee decided to picket these businesses, which happened to be grocery stores. The marchers on the picket line marched for weeks in the rain and on Sundays to remedy the problems as stated above.

It wasn't long before the picketers were given minimal cooperation, that is, a token number of Negroes were hired in a couple of businesses. The group was then confronted with the question, how can we do for ourselves what others will not do? Realizing that the Negroes in the community didn't own or operate any significant business establishments, the group started to work on a plan for their own business.

It was clear in the minds of these conscientious Negroes that whatever businesses that would be established they must be owned by the people. They must be businesses involving community participation in profits, policy, and ownership.

In 1961 the committee organized into the Neighborhood Cooperative, a corporation with unlimited possibilities in establishing consumer business enterprises. The founding group of the Neighborhood Cooperative was impressed with the basic principles of Cooperatives and particularly with this answer to the possibility of community ownership. These principles are outlined in the following:

I Open membership
Anyone, everyone may join
II Democratic Control
A. People vote — not money
III. Limited return on capital
A. Business to be as a service to its customer-patrons
B. Business not a profit for investors
IV. Patronage Refunds
A. Buying for themselves at a savings rather than being sold by others for their profit.
V. Non-Political non-sectarian
A. An opportunity to work together as buyers and consumers on a common ground without conflice on religious or political issues.

In October of 1963, the Cooperative started selling shares in multiples of five dollars for the Supermarket. This venture was found to be a challenge every step of the way. The dedicated group had taken upon themselves a long term work project. A project of developing a true consumer cooperation in a low-income area in San Francisco, a fact that no other enterprise, or organization had been successful in doing.

The fact that a consumer cooperative had never been established in San Francisco was no obstacle for these dedicated Negroes, for they were out to improve their economic status, and write history in the process.

There was a tremendous effort by the members involved to reach their seventy-five thousand dollar goal. Of the original board members, three were authorized to sell shares and later the Board was expanded so that there were eighteen board members and all authorized to sell shares. With the change the Neighborhood Cooperative reached its capital goal of seventy-five thousand dollars in 1965 and established a record of being the only beginning consumer cooperative to raise such a large amount of money in such a short time.

After the capital goal had been reached, the Neighborhood Cooperatives opened its first business, a giant, beautiful Supermarket with the latest equipment and design, and a potential million dollar volume in business.

With the establishment of this business, the Neighborhood Cooperative provided job opportunity, and management training for Negroes and gave the community a super-market with quality merchandise, fair prices, and opportunity for dignity and pride in ownership, and a chance to share in "profits."

The Neighborhood Cooperative truly a Negro effort in self-help stands as a real monument in Negro achievements. It is a credit to the community and a salute to the effort of its originators, and example of what the Negro has done and can do.

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The Business — Third Street & Paul Avenue, San Francisco.
(1) Large modern supermarket with adequate customer parking facilities
(2) Grocery, produce, meat and liquor
(3) Quality merchandise at low competitive pricing
(4) Advertised specials, 7 days of the week from Monday through Sunday
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Monday through Thursday 9-7 p.m.
Friday through Saturday 9-9 p.m.
Sunday 9:30-6:30 p.m.

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Owned by over 2,000 families, the majority are residents of Bayview-Hunters Point community in which the business is located.

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41st Annual Observance
Negro History Week
FEBRUARY 13-20, 1966
Theme: *"Truth Shall Make Us Free"*

SATURDAY
February 19
12:00 noon

NEGRO HISTORY WORKSHOP—San Francisco State College. Panelists: Dr. Richard Linnenger, Dr. J. Herman Blake, Dr. William Cobb, Dr. Rudolph Lapp, Dr. Louis Levine and Dr. Horace Cayton, will discuss **"Freedom from Racial Myths and Stereotypes."** Moderators will be Aubrey Labrie and Sam Edwards, Jr., of S. F. State College Negro Students' Association, and James Herndon, President of S. F. Negro Historical & Cultural Society, Inc. The audience will participate in each discussion.

1:30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM—at **Josephine D. Randall Junior Museum, 16th Street and Roosevelt Way.** This program will consist of an original play, based on history, taken from the life of Harriet Tubman, woman Abolitionist, entitled: **"I Never Lost a Passenger."** The play was written by the children of the Presidio Hill School and their staff of teachers.

9:00 p.m.

CARNIVAL A GO-GO DANCE at **Booker T. Washington Center, Presidio and Sutter Streets, San Francisco. Prizes** for winners of **"Duck" Contest.** Music by the **"V.I.P.'s."** Donation $2.50 at box office. Sponsored by the Friends of the San Francisco Negro Historical and Cultural Society, all proceeds will be donated to the Society.

SUNDAY
February 20
3:00 p.m.

ADDRESS by **Assemblyman Willie Brown; Scholarship Award,** at Mount Zion **Baptist Church, 1671 Ellis Street, San Francisco.**

DISPLAYS

EMPORIUM, Downtown—Display depicting the theme (above) of Negro History Week.

MAIN BRANCH, S. F. LIBRARY—Civic Center, Collection prepared by the S. F. Public Library as part of Negro History Week Observance.

S. F. NEGRO HISTORICAL & CULTURAL SOCIETY, headquarters, **2800 Pine Street at Broderick Street, San Francisco.**

HOWARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—**Oak & Baker Streets.** Bulletin Board Display.

SUCCESS BOOK STORE—**146 Leavenworth Street** (between Golden Gate Avenue and Turk Street) San Francisco. Books on Negro History.

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